

Appl. No. 09/741,805  
Response Dated June 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a an extensible markup language (XML) device coupled between a client and a server, the XML device having a configuration, the XML device to receive a content based message comprising a header and application data provided in one or more fields after the header via one or more received packets and to process the content based message only if the received packets have the one or more fields comprising the application data, ~~wherein~~ and if the content of the application data provided after the header in the one or more fields matches the configuration of the XML device, the XML device to forward the processed content based message via one or more packets having one or more fields that are different from the received packets.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the XML device comprises a device to forward the received packets with the one or more fields and the content based message that are unchanged if the content of the application data in the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the configuration of the XML device.

Appl. No. 09/741,805  
Response Dated June 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the XML device comprises one or more of a validator, a transformer and a content based switch.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the XML device comprise a destination IP address and destination port number.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
  
a plurality of extensible markup language (XML) devices coupled between a client and a server, the XML devices having a same configuration, the XML devices to receive a content based message comprising a header and application data provided in one or more fields after the header via one or more received packets and to process the content based message only if the received packets have the one or more fields comprising the application data, ~~wherein~~ and if the content of the application data in the one or more fields matches the configuration of the XML devices, the XML devices to forward the received packets with the one or more fields and the message that are unchanged if the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the configuration of the XML devices, the XML devices to forward the content based processed message via one or more packets having one or more fields that are different from the received packets.

Appl. No. 09/741,805  
Response Dated June 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the plurality of XML devices comprise a plurality of validators.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein at least one of the validators comprises a validation accelerator to validate XML documents or content based messages.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the plurality of XML devices comprise a plurality of transformers.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein at least one of the transformers comprises a transformer to transform the content based message from a first format to a second format.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the plurality of XML devices comprise a plurality of switches.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein at least one of the switches comprises a content based switch to switch the content based message to a selected processing node or server if the content of the content based message matches one or more predetermined patterns or values.

Appl. No. 09/741,805  
Response Dated June 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the content based switch comprises a content based switch to switch the content based message to a selected processing node or server if business transaction information in the content based message matches a predetermined pattern or value.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the XML device comprise an address.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the XML device comprise a destination address.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the XML device comprise a destination address and destination port number.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the XML device comprise a destination IP address and destination port number.

Appl. No. 09/741,805  
Response Dated June 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the application data the one or more fields that match the configuration of the device comprise a destination IP address and destination port number on which the XML devices are accepting connection requests.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first extensible markup language (XML) device having a first configuration;

a second XML device coupled to the first XML device, the second XML device having a second configuration;

the first XML device to receive a content based message comprising a header and application data provided in one or more fields after the header via one or more received packets and to process the content based message only if the received packets have the one or more fields comprising the application data, ~~wherein~~ and if the content of the application data provided after the header in the one or more fields matches the configuration of the first XML device, the first XML device to forward the received packets to the second XML device with the one or more fields and the content based message that are unchanged if the content of the application data in the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the first configuration.

Appl. No. 09/741,805  
Response Dated June 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the first XML device to forward the processed content based message to the second XML device via one or more packets having one or more fields that match the second configuration.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein each of the first and second XML devices comprises one or more of a validator, a transformer and a switch.

21. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

configuring a an extensible markup language (XML) device;

receiving a content based message comprising a header and application data provided in one or more fields after the header at the XML device via one or more packets;

processing the content based message only if the received packets have the one or more fields comprising the application data, ~~wherein~~ the content of the application data provided after the header in the one or more fields matches the configuration of the XML device; and

forwarding the processed content based message via one or more packets having one or more fields that are different from the received packets.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 and further comprising forwarding the received packets with the one or more fields and the content based

Appl. No. 09/741,805  
Response Dated June 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

message that are unchanged if the content in the application data in the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the configuration of the XML device.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 and further comprising:

generating a response message;

receiving the response message at the XML device via one or more packets;

processing the response message if the one or more packets of the response message match the configuration of the XML device.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a media having instructions thereon, the instructions resulting in the following when executed:

configuring a XML device;

receiving a content based message comprising a header and application data provided in one or more fields after the header at the XML device via one or more packets;

processing the content based message only if the received packets have the one or more fields comprise the application data, ~~wherein~~ and if the content of the application data provided after the header in the one or more fields matches the configuration of the XML device; and

Appl. No. 09/741,805  
Response Dated June 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

forwarding the processed content based message via one or more packets having one or more fields that are different from the received packets.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24 and further comprising:  
forwarding the received packets with the one or more fields and the content based message that are unchanged if the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the configuration of the XML device.